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Egypt

Citrus

Annual

2002

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Report Highlights:

Egypt Exported 257,000 MT of oranges in 2001/2002, mostly to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries in the region.

Includes PSD changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
Annual Report
Cairo [EG1], EG

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Fresh Oranges

PSD Table

PSD Table						
Country:	Egypt					
Commodity:	Oranges					
		2000		2001		2002
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/2000		10/2001		10/2002
Area Planted	88	88	88	88	0	88
Area Harvested	85	85	85	84	0	85
Bearing Trees	4402	4402	4505	4452	0	4509
Non-Bearing Trees	3770	3770	3855	3810	0	3815
TOTAL No. Of Trees	8172	8172	8360	8262	0	8324
Production	1610	1610	1642	1696	0	1725
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	1610	1610	1642	1696	0	1725
Exports	225	225	230	258	0	270
Fresh Dom. Consumption	1357	1357	1382	1406	0	1420
Processing	28	28	30	32	0	35
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	1610	1610	1642	1696	0	1725

Production

Oranges are a winter fruit well-suited to the Egyptian climate. Orange production accounts for well over half the total fruit production in Egypt. Orange cultivation is centered in two large geographic regions: the fertile Delta area and the newly reclaimed lands. About 80 percent of total production of oranges in Egypt is produced by large farms (10-100 feddans) and 20 percent is produced by small farms (1-10 feddans). (One feddan= .42 hectare). Navel oranges are the predominant variety. Lesser amounts of local (baladi), sweet, valencia, and other varieties are also produced. The harvest of navel oranges begins in October and is followed by other varieties in November and December. The harvest usually lasts 4 to 5 months.

Total area under orange production in 2001, was estimated at 88,000 hectares or about the same as 2000. However, total citrus production in 2001 increased to about 1.7 million MT compared to 1.6 million MT in 2000. The increase in orange production was mainly due to increase in average yield, 8.52 MT/feddan in 2001/2002, from 7.78 MT/feddan in 2000/2001. The increase in yield was due to the absence of strong winds which usually cause damage to fruit trees sets. For the 2002/2003 season, the area for citrus is expected to remain the same as 2001/2002 while production is expected to increase by 1.7 percent. This expected increase in production is due to the increased number of bearing trees.

Consumption

Oranges are the main fruit available in Egypt during winter. Due to the fact that oranges are relatively inexpensive, Egyptians consume large amounts of oranges, both as fresh and juice. Per capita consumption of oranges is estimated at about 22 Kg per year. The orange processing industry is expanding due to the increased number of companies producing orange juice. At the present time, there are six major orange juice processors in Egypt. Most companies depend on the baladi and summer varieties for processing. Domestic production is primarily destined for fresh consumption. Imported orange juice is also available in the market. Egyptian citrus grown in arid areas (reclaimed desert land) is characterized by low juice content, while fruit produced in the more humid regions, mainly along the Red Sea and Mediterranean coast, has much higher juice content.

Trade

The Egyptian orange export season is relatively long, extending from December to April, and this is quite favorable for the export of navel oranges. Although Egypt has excellent opportunities for expanding its orange exports due to its favorable climate and strategic geographic location, exports of Egyptian oranges to the European market continue to be limited by the uneven quality of Egyptian oranges as well as by competition from other suppliers such as Spain, Israel, and Morocco. European countries import baladi and summer varieties, mainly for juice production, while Saudi Arabia is currently the largest market for Egyptian table oranges. Total Egyptian orange exports in 2001/2002 increased to 257,000 MT, compared to 225,000 MT in 2000/2001. Most of this increase was due to an increased in orange exports to the Saudi market which grew by about 38,000 MT in 2002/2003. Exports are expected to increase by about 12,000 MT, because of anticipated opportunities in the Chinese and Australian markets after the government's ongoing agricultural quarantine negotiations with these countries conclude. In addition, the devaluation of the Egyptian pound is expected to reflect positively on Egyptian orange exports. The current average export price of fresh oranges is \$250/MT FOB as compared to \$ 280/MT FOB during the same period last season (beginning of export season). According to trade sources, prices are expected to drop to be about \$ 225/MT FOB by the end of the 2001/2002 season as market supply increases.

The EU-Egyptian Partnership Agreements which was signed in June 24, 2001 will offer tariff concessions for Egyptian orange exporters. Following the implementation of the agreement, Egypt will receive a duty- free 50,000 MT TRQ, for fresh or dried oranges (080510); 55,000 MT during the second year and 60,000 MT during the third year and beyond. The current TRQ for oranges is 8,000 MT at zero duty from December through May provided that the entry price is at least EUR 266/MT. The following provision applies to Egypt's orange TRQ. Fresh sweet oranges which fall in headings 08051010, 08051030 and 08051050 can only be imported into the EU from December first to May 31 with a limit of no more than 34,000 MT at an agreed entry price of EUR 264/MT . If the price for a consignment is lower than 92 percent the agreed entry price, the specific duty bound within the WTO will apply. Export quantities above the TRQ amount will be assessed at 60 percent of EU's MFN tariff.

Export Trade Matrix

Export Trade Matrix			
Country:		Units:	MT
Commodity:			
Time period:			
Exports for	2000		2001
U.S.		U.S.	
Others		Others	
Saudi Arabia	140,449	Saudi Arabia	178,228
Other Arab Countries	45,188	Other 'Arab Countries	33,277
England	10,983	Russia	12,806
Russia	6,356	England	10,170
Ukraine	4,401	Croatia	4,459
Indonesia	3,254	E.U	5,231
Germany	3,158	Hong Kong	1,861
Hong Kong	2,763	Indonesia	1,793
Belgium	2,428	Malaysia	1,610
Malaysia	1,424	Solvenia	1,534
Total for Others	220404		250969
Others not listed	5,048		6,893
Grand Total	225452		257862

Fresh Tangerines

PSD Table

PSD Table						
Country:	Egypt					
Commodity:	Fresh Tangerines					
		2000		2001		2002
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/2000		10/2001		10/2002
Area Planted	39	39	39	39	0	39
Area Harvested	35	35	35	36	0	35
Bearing Trees	2135	2135	2140	2198	0	2150
Non-Bearing Trees	1052	1052	1047	989	0	1040
TOTAL No. Of Trees	3187	3187	3187	3187	0	3190
Production	481	481	483	493	0	500
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	481	481	483	493	0	500
Exports	8	8	10	5	0	5
Fresh Dom. Consumption	471	471	473	485	0	492
Processing	2	2	0	3	0	3
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	481	481	483	493	0	500

Production

The major variety of tangerines grown in Egypt is the mandarin, a local “Baladi” variety which is not a hybrid variety. Mandarins are mainly produced for the local market with limited quantities for the export market. In 2001/02, total tangerine production increased to 493,000 MT, or 12,000 MT over the 2000/2000 level. This increase is attributed mainly to the increase in the number of bearing trees, in addition to the absence of strong winds. The mandarin production season is shorter than the orange season. The marketing season begins in November/December but ends in February/March, about two months earlier than the orange season.

Consumption

Despite the predominance of orange production, many Egyptian consumers prefer mandarins to oranges because they are easier to eat. During the 2001/02 marketing season (November-October), wholesale prices averaged L.E. 0.70 per Kg, and retail prices were around LE 1.10 per Kg. In 2001/02, total

mandarin consumption increased to 485,000 MT compared to 471,000 MT in 2000/2001.

Trade

All mandarin exports are handled by the private sector. Mandarins do not require a special cleaning or waxing process. The major export market for Egyptian mandarins is the Gulf countries. In 2001/2002 season total Egyptian mandarins exports decreased and estimated at 5,000 MT compared to 8,000 MT were exported in 2000/01. The average export price for mandarins in the 2001/02 season was estimated at about \$211 MT/FOB as compared to \$220 MT/FOB in 2000/01.

Fresh Citrus, Other**PSD Table**

PSD Table						
Country:	Egypt					
Commodity:	Fresh Citrus,Other					
		2000		2001		2002
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/2000		10/2001		10/2002
Area Planted	17	17	17	18	0	18
Area Harvested	16	16	16	16	0	16
Bearing Trees	765	765	770	770	0	775
Non-Bearing Trees	630	630	625	630	0	625
TOTAL No. Of Trees	1395	1395	1395	1400	0	1400
Production	347	347	350	352	0	355
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	347	347	350	352	0	355
Exports	15	15	18	18	0	19
Fresh Dom. Consumption	318	318	317	317	0	317
Processing	14	14	15	17	0	19
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	347	347	350	352	0	355

Production

Sweet and sour limes and bitter oranges are the major types of other citrus produced in Egypt. Limes, known as “lamuun” in Arabic, account for most of this category. Lime trees produce throughout the year, with the greatest output occurring in the late summer months of September and October. Egyptian consumers have a strong preference for limes. Fresh sliced limes often are served with meals. A heavily sweetened fresh lime juice is also very popular, as are pickled limes which accompany many dishes. Most of the production of bitter orange is processed into jelly and marmalade. According to Ministry of Agriculture statistics, total bitter orange production in 2001 season is estimated at 32,193MT compared to 29,370 MT in 2000.

Grapefruit is another citrus fruit that is not very popular in Egypt. Still, area for grapefruit production is increased, in 2001 to 212 hectares compared to 100 hectares in 2000. Most of the grapefruit grown in Egypt are seedless varieties. Grapefruit is mainly cultivated for service hotels, restaurants and other facilities that cater to the tourist industry. Unless export demand increases, grapefruits are not expected

to become a significant citrus crop in Egypt.